

THE STUMBLINGSTONE.

"BEHOLD I LAY IN SION A STUMBLING-STONE AND ROCK OF OFFENCE."—Romans IX., 33.

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To find our office and residence, take Monroe St. horse car and keep that street north westerly just two miles beyond street cars, then one hundred rods north on next street is our place. But we have also our residence and study at the Chapel house, 205 Tenth st., where some of us will be found most of the time.

We are hearing from thousands now in every state and country, nearly, who are getting their eyes open to the iniquity of the moneyed sect corporations called CHURCH, and are content to have Jesus, only, and be impartially joined to all who are his, taking the Bible and not human tradition.

This issue is printed in February.

Sin is not an abstract quality, nor a misfortune, nor an act or condition of ignorance or innocence; but is the evil intent of a wilful enemy of God and righteous law.

This paper has no controversy with any thing but sin, and hence cannot deal with opponents jestingly, or complacently, nor with words of indulgence, but with that abhorrence which will burn the wicked in an eternal hell. It is not ours to punish sin, but we have to treat it in spirit and in words, which correspond to its character and infinite desert. To treat sin gently and lovingly is to putake its guilt, and treason against virtue and against God. "Whoever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." Jas. 4:4.

The Pastor of St. John's M. E. Church Toledo, Tested By the WORD of GOD.

The command of Jesus to beware of false prophets requires us to subject the leading preachers of our cities to the Bible test. And one example will illustrate most other cases.

The pastor of St. John's Methodist E. is a very successful and reputable example of the most zealous devotee of man-made churches. I presume he is a faultless pattern of a gentleman by the world's standard, and doubtless sincere in his devotion to church interests. Above seventy have been added to the society since January 1st. I have never before seen the church organization by man so exalted in Christ's stead as having power to save all who join it, except among Catholics who make the church their God, as by this man.

This M. E. Pastor has been rushing into the church all who would join it without regard to any christian experience. He said on one occasion: "Why, bless you, it is the church that saves" or words to that effect. And so he called upon all to join whether converted or not, and said that they could get religion after joining!

At one of his meetings a common sinner was present, and did not kneel with the rest. The leader came and asked him to join the church. He replied: "No I won't join any such concerns as this. You haven't got any religion. This church is for poor folks. It is for the rich. I don't want anything to do with such a church as this." With such words of righteous rebuke the sinner drove the leader away astonished at his more faithful preaching than was wont to be heard in that house.

Now I ask that preacher, who will probably see these words, if his course is true to Methodism, not to say Bible religion!

Does not Wesley say that "A Methodist is one who has the love of God shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost given unto him," and that all other conditions have nothing to do with constituting a Methodist? And yet this preacher would make people Methodists without the Holy Ghost, and even tell them to trust joining the church to save them, and to make the church their very God! Wesley did not call the Methodist societies the church at all. He recognized the church as consisting of all who were truly in Christ, and such alone as true Methodists. He says even this: "I and all who follow my judgment do vehemently refuse to be distinguished from other men by any but the common principles of christianity, renouncing and detesting all other marks of distinction." This with his strong language against all denominational divisions, places Wesley and original Methodists in perfect

contrast and antagonism to this huge fraud of St. John's, which bears that venerable name.

And when we see the pride and worldliness of that grand house and congregation, with its frolics and theatricals for raising money, in contrast with the humility and unworldliness of the despised and persecuted Methodists of Wesley's time, the absurdity of his claims to Methodism is most astonishing!

Especially when we take the Bible which excludes all other ways and names but Christ, and see how this pretended church of his, a corporation of this world with nothing but secular and money power, claims to be the only salvation for man, denying that Christ can save alone outside their pale, we see all the arrogance of papal Rome, whose height of presumption was reached when she assumed that there was no salvation outside her communion.

This Pastor of St. John repeatedly affirmed that all were lost who stayed outside with Jesus alone and refused to come into the Methodist or other sectarian fold.

Oh, horrible usurper of Christ's headship, and God defying idolatry and blasphemy of "The Mark of Sin," which sits in the temple of God (the church) and exalts itself above all that is called God!"

To assume that this earthly corporation which has no more purity, nor so much, as the political parties of our times, is Christ's body, outside of which is no salvation from sin! Oh, what presumption of hypocrisy and arrogance! What vaulting ambition that dares to rival Christ and say that he cannot save souls outside of this Methodist cob-house of man's building!

This is precisely what Mr. A.... repeatedly said and taught from his pulpit.

Yes this preacher has got his commission and authority to preach in St. John's pulpit from the illegitimate mongrel corporation of Christ and Mammon falsely called Methodist, which has not so much right to commission preachers of Christ as the Hartford Insurance Co., or Wm. H. Vanderbilt!

And he affirms that his soul market is the best there is and is constantly urging sinners with all the vehemence of an experienced auctioneer to make a bid for stock in the Methodist concern as the only escape from soul-bankruptcy.

No temple of pagan idolatry nor altar of Baal ever reared itself in such impudent defiance of Jehovah as this Methodist antichrist.

I never have heard from Methodist preachers before such extravagant claims for the divinity of Methodism and its saving power, as from this man. They have hitherto had too much sense or shrewdness to attach such saving importance to these cobwebs of human organisms. But this preacher and priest of Methodism is manifestly farther advanced in the progress of this ambitious rival of Rome.

I account for this increase of church idolatry as the result of the late centennial anniversaries of Methodism, where never as before all the priests of this Great Harlot spent their enthusiasm in the most extravagant glorifications of her attractions and virtues. The effect of that anniversary has undoubtedly been to infuse the whole of that corrupt body with a more blind devotion to their Jezebel Mother than they had before. It is certain that now no priest of Rome can surpass this pastor of St. John's in his superstitious zeal and homage for the harlot which claims to be the bride the church of Christ.

But, Glory to God, He will soon Judge both the old Mother of Harlots and this with all her other daughters who with her wine of fornication has so long made the nations drunk! The whole of this great Babylon which has enriched the merchants of the earth, and committed fornication with her rulers and politicians, will be burned with the fires of God's wrath. Rev. 18.

On Sabbath Feb. 15, he took in several members, and preached from Ruth 1, the words of Ruth to Naomi: "Whither thou goest I will go; where thou lodgest I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest I will die and there will I be buried." He applied this devotion of Ruth to Naomi to the obligations of members to be devoted to the Methodist church the mother they had adopted.

The whole of his argument from this text was to enforce on all an entire consecration for life to the Methodist people and Methodist God. They were to leave the world, and all other denominations behind, and cleave to the Methodist with all their powers in life, and in death, and the grave. I presume in that semi-pagan audience few realized that a profounder idolatry was preached in that sermon than ever was inculcated by a priest of Juggernaut. Peter the Hermit in his wildest enthusiasm for papal Rome never exceeded this preacher of St. John in his superstitious inspirations of carnal and idolatrous devotion.

It is only the benighting power of sectarian heathenism that prevents any from seeing that this devotion to an organization, by man, is identically the same as the Hindoo superstition which worships Juggernaut.

There is no difference whatever between worshipping a man-made church, and any other man-made god.

There is no idolatry in worshipping Christ's body the true church which includes all the faithful, for that is God's Building, and the dwelling place of his Spirit.

Oh, that God would open the eyes of this most pagan of all pagan priests to the fearful idolatry into

which he is deluding the souls of men! His responsibility with the Bible in his hands is a hundred fold greater than the priests and devotees of papal or any heathen superstition.

There is no greater sin possible than this idolatry for a church which falsely pretends to be the body of Christ, but of which Christ is not the head, nor door, nor foundation; since to be in Christ is not to be in it, and to be in it is not to be in Christ.

During this discourse the preacher said that the church of Christ included all on earth who were in him by saving faith, and then so presented the Methodist corporation as to make his hearers understand it to be the same as Christ's church, with perhaps some other insignificant branches. The subtlety he showed in attempting to confound the M. E. with the church of Christ, was shockingly manifest to all who know the Scriptures. At one time he would be speaking of the Bible church with scripture proofs, then he would bring in the modern concern only a hundred years old as the same divine institution!

If my child had showed such subtlety of deception I should have to apply the rod. No boy of twelve years is so ignorant of the Bible as to be excusable for calling a modern sect the church of the New Testament times, whose names were only recorded in heaven. I would not trust a boy with fifty cents who should show such dishonesty. Yet all man's church advocates and sect defenders have to lie, and get used to it, and think it right in behalf of their church. Every one knows that this is true of Catholics, and no less true of Protestant sects. Such idolatry always sears all conscience for the truth.

Again, the preacher said that the Methodist discipline made Jesus Christ the head of the church. I wanted to ask him whether it made Jesus head of every member, or the head of the bishops, and these the head of the presiding elders, and they the head of the pastors, and the pastors the head of class leaders, and class leaders the heads of the members? I want to know how many heads Jesus has between him and his church?

The fact is that the Methodist Book puts in four sets of heads between Jesus and the members of his body! So then when the preacher said the Methodist church made Jesus only its head, it was a four fold lie, since there are four sets of heads between him and the church! If Jesus is head at all, he is only the head of the bishops. But the manifest truth is he is no more the head of the M. E. bishops, than of the Roman Catholic pope. It is the same false pretense in both cases, and none other head in reality exists but the Father of lies, from whence the whole Ecclesiastical imposture proceeds.

Again, the preacher said that the M. E. church made the Bible its only rule of faith and practice.

How is it then about the book of discipline? What is the discipline for, if the Bible is the only law governing its members? There is another big mistake here which I cannot distinguish from a lie. It is not pleasant to say LIE. That is an ugly word. "All liars shall have their part in the lake of fire." And to lie about God's church or way of salvation is infinitely worse than to lie about mere property matters. It is better to be lied out of money than out of a hope of heaven.

Look the facts square in the face. Suppose a man is on trial in the Methodist church, which is appealed to as Methodist law, the Bible or discipline? Suppose a man is accused before Methodist authorities for not paying his quarterages or attending class, and he should take the Bible for his defense, and say that to please Jesus he had paid all his money to persons more worthy or in greater need, and had attended meetings where he could do more good,—which would govern in that case, the Bible or the Discipline?

Suppose a member was on trial for rebuking church sin, and speaking in meeting when his conscience required it, but the minister forbade it, would the Bible, or the discipline and Methodist rule govern such a case in the Methodist church, which?

Again, suppose I or any child of God, or known minister of Jesus, not a Methodist, should exercise equal liberty in St. John's or other Methodist meeting and pulpit, which would govern in such a case, the Bible which knows no sect lines, or the Methodist discipline and Methodist pope? Which is it that gives the pastor of St. John the exclusive right to that pulpit, and to govern all its meetings, the Bible, or the book of discipline?

I have cited proof enough. There is no fool so stupid but knows that when the pastor of St. John said that the Bible was made the only rule of faith and practice by the Methodist church, he told what he knew to be a monstrous falsehood, as square a contradiction of all the facts as ever came from the heart and tongue of any liar.

He doubtless did not realize it, because lies are the defense of every sect church, and all sect advocates are steeped and schooled in lies until it becomes their second nature. If I had not passed through the same school when I was made a sectarian preacher I would not know this fact as I now do.

In defense of church idolatry we lie without knowing it. We lie from habit, and we lie from principle, we lie from devotion to our religion so long as our religion is idolatry. Idolatry like all other sin, has no other defense but lies. So long as a man is devoted to a sect

he will lie to defend it, and his word is worth no more as regards his religion, than the word of a thief. Never until a man is stripped of all idolatry and sin, and he worships the true God alone, can his word be trusted in any matters pertaining to his false idolatry.

This explains the strong language of Jeremiah toward rebellious idolatrous Israel: "An assembly of treacherous men, they bend their tongues like their bow for lies. But they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth. They will deceive every one his neighbor, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies." Jer. 9: 4, 5.

Yet this pastor of St. John's is as fine a gentleman as ever courted popular favor, or served as a supple tool of a pope or a king. Not one of those who were fed at Jezebel's table was more oily mouthed toward Ahab's court, than he is toward the hierarchy he serves, or the souls he would entice.

But this same man has a forked tongue that can dart venom at the Elijahs of God!

Brother and Sister King of North Toledo, two simple-hearted saints of the living God, with hearts burdened like old Jeremiah's for His wayward church and for real salvation, attended his late revival meetings. They were at first received lovingly, and asked to join the Methodist idol. But they refused to bow down to the golden image, or to receive the mark of its name in their foreheads. Then began a war against them. They were told that their services were not wanted. Because they testified to Jesus alone as able to save without man's church; they were forbid to speak any more in his name. Jealousy for the Methodist name was fully aroused by the name of Jesus alone which they exalted.

The preacher then from the pulpit hurled the blackest lies against the Christ of the Bible outside the Methodist idol. He threatened his denunciations and curses upon all who had Jesus alone outside of his and other church crafts. He said all such were sure of hell! He said those who advocated Jesus as Savior without the Methodist or other cob-houses, were cranks as bad or worse than Guiteau! No character was hateful enough for him to cite for blackening those who teach Jesus alone.

The very spirit of the Spanish Inquisition which raged against the Protestants for teaching the sufficiency of Christ without the church was manifested by this devotee of the Methodist hierarchy. If he had the power, as he showed the disposition, and could cover up the crime, he would not hesitate to put the advocates of Christ alone to the torture and fatal traps of that famous Spanish dungeon.

The spirit which could denounce christian men and women for their faith in Jesus only against church craft, as cranks and worse than Guiteau, is the same spirit, and hence would use the same violence that the martyrs suffered at the hands of Romish priest-craft.

The torture and rack of vile slander which he used against godly men and women for their conscience against his craft is no more christian or holy than the literal tortures the papists used in their bloody persecutions of the sixteenth century.

I write this sorrowfully with no ill-will nor desire to harm this preacher, who has done me no personal injury, and who doubtless thinks he is doing God service, and stands as high in the esteem of this community as any other man. But I am obliged to publish the facts of peril to the church and the souls of men. This turning the church from Christ and the cause of humanity into a venal craft and system of idolatry is the most dangerous work of deception and fraud, to which mankind can be exposed.

Church idolatry mistaken for christianity, corrupts the fountain of all good, and is the most blighting curse which afflicts our land and world. This is the hot-bed and nursery of all infidelity, the dung-hill which breeds the poisoning ingersols and the lawless communists.

The Awful Deception.

I desire not to give offense by a constant strain of complaint and fault-finding, but how can I hold my peace and see the masses of dear precious souls deceived and sacrificed to the greed of the Moloch of modern idolatry, the moneyed corporations which make merchandise of them and of Jesus!

Oh that I could sound the warning trumpet tongue, to all the world against the awful delusion so manifest in sectarian revivals and so-called christian work!

The greatest peril to the church and to mankind is the spurious revivals and conversions effected by such as Moody, Harrison and hosts of other like workers and their imitators, and the buffoon and clown of all this stupendous farce, the Salvation Army.

Since false and precious souls are mixed up in all this fearful work of deception, the foundation of this work of lies is the false teaching so universal and acceptable, that the conversion of sinners to religion is proof of God's approbation. Hence anything that makes converts is esteemed holy and divine. This is an especially agreeable view to the builders of human sects. But it is the fundamental error in this whole deception.

While it is true that God may and often does use wicked men and means to effect good, and the salvation of sinners, yet thousands are converted in these revivals whose moral character is not changed! They are not converted to righteousness, although they become religious. The most religious people, now as in Christ's time, are often the most false and wicked. In this lies the whole deception. The Pharisees made converts to religion but not to righteousness. The converts were like themselves, only two fold worse. The stream cannot rise above its fountain!

Since the sectarian world make converts the test of genuineness instead of God's law, he has given them

over to delusion to have their fill of converts, and of their own chosen ways.

And the masses who hate God's word are all sweeping down the broad way together, priests and people, blind and leaders of the blind!

It is painful to those who have eyes to see, to witness this wholesale deception of the masses by waters of truth and righteousness, full of religious zeal just like the old Pharisees who would crucify the Christ of the Bible to-day just as eighteen hundred years ago.

All this popular christian revival work is in perfect harmony with the carnal mind and heart of rebel man, and at perfect enmity with the true God and his Christ.

All may see and know these facts if they will only compare this so-called christian work with the Bible, but they will not. They measure all things by their own convenience, and pleasure, and not by the law of God. They don't want the truth; they want only what is reputable, in fashion, in harmony with the world, and brings no reproach, persecution nor cross.

Look at the nine pin alleys, billiards, theatricals, worldly frolics and greed for money, and strange devices for getting it, in the christian associations, churches, ministerial and religious circles every where, the horrible mockery of pulpit and choir where money and entertainment is the object of worship, and the sickening levity and worldliness of preachers and worshippers, then say if you can that with all this iniquity the revival work is of God!

You know better, yet you love a lie rather than the truth!

In eternity you who now thus sow to the wind will reap the whirlwind! With Moody and all your favorite evangelists who flatter you for your money and numbers to swell their ranks of deceived souls, you will wail in hell! It cannot be otherwise! You know that the Bible is a lie if all this stupendous contradiction of its spirit and teaching is not a sham, an infinitely awful delusion!

In spite of Papal or Protestant Babylon, God may save some honest souls in the midst of her corruptions; but not one will escape his wrath who has the light and refuses to obey the truth, and the call to come out of her that we "be not partaker of her sins and we receive not of her plagues."

If God is pleased to save any who have lived in ignorance, that is his business; but if we do not obey the truth and walk in all the light he has given us we must eternally perish with all the ungodly and the hypocrites.

Written Jan. 8.

Spurious Revivals.

The Holidays have past. The fun and frolic now gives place to the week of prayer. The reaction from worldly mirth and hilarity has set in, and like a drunkard after his spree they are having the blues in all the churches, crying to God for salvation and making atonement by fasting and prayers for the week of revival.

Revivals are reported in progress in the churches of Babylon. Many conversions are taking place, and multitudes are deceived with the idea that God's work is progressing gloriously in these revivals and conversions.

In eternity, on how differently will these revivals be viewed!

God's work begins with his church. We read nowhere of revivals in Scripture, except a humbling of the church, a putting away of sin, which has defiled the people. "Judgment must begin at the house of God."

When we see these churches, so-called, repeating their worldliness and sin putting an end to her abominable Christmas frolics, worldly socials, festivals, shows, fairs, etc., her greed for money, fashions, and pride of this world, and above all when they seek to turn to the old Bible faith, and abandon churches not of God, made by man, corporations of sin, which make merchandise of Jesus and of souls, the most horrible iniquity on earth, then will we believe that God's work is revived and genuine salvation has come. But under the circumstances, by the Bible standard every honest reader knows that these revivals are from the bottomless pit, full of deception and hypocrisy.

Oh, this compassing sea and land for converts when the greatest sinners are at home in all these churches, is the most glaring hypocrisy, just what Jesus rebuked in the Pharisees of old. O God, forbid that converts should be multiplied who are made no better than the masses of existing church members, who have a religion without any conscience or virtue. The world is deceived and cursed by all such revivals!

Reports of Meetings.

In December we spent a week in Cleveland, Ohio. As we were not heralded by the press, and no hand-bills as other revivalists and lecturers, and our gospel is not a worldly entertainment of course we did not have a very large attendance, but nevertheless a deeply interesting and profitable meeting. If it could have been continued it would, in time have increased in numbers and drawn the attention of that worldly people in spite of the power of sectarianism and idolatry which curses that as all other cities.

I do not think there is another city of its size that has more pharisaical and self-righteous pride than Cleveland, nor more religious zeal without genuine christianity. Its religion indeed is a whitewashed sepulcher, and with a good deal of the whitewash rubbed off in spots. The Baptist church, so-called, had a festival and a negro comic show for entertainment and money. The Methodist press rebuked their noisy revelry and mirth in their house professedly dedicated to God.

I expect if God will, to hold open air meetings in their park next summer.

The Gospel Trumpet, so-called.

Dr. S. Warner of the Gospel Trumpet, the organ of the little sect which makes second-work theory, and from four to six ordinances a test of christian character, now comes out and publishes us as lead of the devil and not the Holy Spirit, because we are outside the above sect lines.

This fanaticism of rejecting brethren by tests besides the law of righteousness, and calling persons of the devil against whom no known sin can truthfully be charged, is decisive proof of Satan's work. The Spirit of God never condemns any one without specifying some manifest unrighteousness unrepented. To reject a brother on other grounds than will-known sin is itself the grossest sin and decisive proof of a lying spirit, which when mixed with religious zeal constitutes fanaticism in its worst form.

In Ohio at that assembly meeting near Bucyrus, this spirit ran to the wildest extent, brethren condemning and rejecting each other calling one another out of the house as devils, etc., until pandemonium seemed to have broken loose. It is no wonder Warner's wife was driven away from him. This is precisely that fanaticism which breaks up families. I learned about it by sad experience of precisely the same thing many years ago. I see that Warner and Fisher are in the same fanaticism now, raising bedlam at Diamonddale and elsewhere.

There is nothing so absurd as their pretense to being out of sects when they are the narrowest of all sects: or to the Holy Spirit, when such wild disorder and malignant wrangling are the fruits! Mark this self-evident Bible truth. NO SPIRIT WHICH CONDEMNS A BROTHER FOR ANY THING EXCEPT SIN BY THE TEST OF GOD'S ETERNAL LAW WHICH ALL CAN SEE, CAN BE THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

Since writing the above I just returned from Diamonddale where Warner has been and his three sect-builders, Cole, Foot and Jacobs. Bro. C. I believe is sincere but deceived by Warner, who is himself in an awful delusion as has been fully manifest at Diamonddale.

Warner was there himself, and while at Bro. R. D.'s house mention was made of my name by the brother, and a young sister Mary P., a true saint of God, expressed herself favorable toward the STUMBLINGSTONE editor, when Warner in a frenzy of passion flew at the sister and denounced her as possessed of the devil, from what his clique call the Johnson heresy. The sister was so shocked that she cried aloud. Warner said to her "Bawl then, I am going to give you the red hot truth," or words to that effect, full of boistrous rage!

So Warner and his party are laboring with might and main to extirpate the Johnson heresy as they call it, and every one who expresses himself friendly to me is denounced as having a devil.

This in every case is made a test of character by them. Fighting Johnson and contending for the outward rites seems to be their gospel.

The Sabbath before I was there the climax was reached when the young sister P. was present, at the Warnerite meeting. They then accused her of having a devil and needing to get saved from the evil spirit she got from us. She fell under their fanatic power and asked them to pray for her. Foot, one of the three Warnerites was moved by the Lord, so he said, to cast the devil out of her. He went to work by seizing her head between his hands and pounding her head on the floor, some said thirty or forty times with much force, crying all the time "Come out of her devil!—Jesus come out of her—God come out of her," repeating many times fiercely some such wild expressions, while pounding her head on the floor. But two or three men interfered and seized him and pulled him away from the poor woman, his fanaticism would have injured if not killed. This man Foote was threatened with mob violence for his fanaticism by indignant people of the village.

But praise God it is opening the eyes of many to the awful delusion of the Warner sect which they have fallen into by fighting God's truth on the sufficiency of Christ without man's work of fleshly rites and an earthly priesthood.

Last Sabbath, Feb. 8, I came to Diamonddale, took Warner's apostles by surprise. They had a meeting appointed at noon of one o'clock, which is their principal meeting usually lasting all the afternoon on Sabbath. But learning that I was expected to be present, they suddenly adjourned, and fled in haste, taking up all appointments in Diamonddale for that day, to escape my presence. But a neighbor informed us at evening that he heard them howling at a certain house a mile or two away where they had taken refuge with the hope that I would not find their hiding place.

Things was their guilt made manifest to all. The wicked flee when no man pursues. But the righteous are as bold as a lion. It was a terrible affair for the world's people, that a whole meeting of such sanctified souls should scatter in terror from one they had accused as possessed of the devil. We read in Scripture, that the saints fear God, but they don't fear the devil nor anything besides. This false holiness and opposition to Christ alone, and idolatry for ordinances always runs and flees in terror from true saints of God; while the latter having no guilt have no fear.

I occasionally hear from Abel M. Raper and his deluded followers. A more smooth tongued liar and deceiver is not to be found. He denies his criminality of course. But I have the testimony of others whom he held as God's prophet, and several other direct witnesses as well as his own damning statements in proof of his guilt. When he restores Mrs. Hettinger to her lawful husband from whom she stole, he may think his repentance genuine.

I have cause to regret that I ever aided in introducing to my readers the above two and some other concocted foolish aspirants as God's publishers. Not a word of notice being directed up with pride to the fact and condemnation of the devil's work of lies, as set forth in the above.

Warner in his paper has denounced Thomas H. Lowe as of the devil. Bro. Lowe was with Warner and of the same faith. But I hope now that he is out of the Warner delusion. He is an able and bold champion of the faith, but was entangled with Warner's ordinance and holiness theory sectism. I desire to hear from him.

I am also anxious to hear from Bro. Dolan of the "Sword."

Will Sect Holiness Advocates as a Body Ever

Learn to Speak the Truth?

By S. S. Cox.

God only knows! They certainly are averse to the truth, and render themselves obnoxious to the truth by the manner they persistently misstate the position taken by those they are pleased to dub as *come-outers*.

They cannot honestly plead ignorance: over and over, again and again, in season and out of season, have such made direct statements of their views; yet as persistently do they continue to falsify their statements.

I will take as an illustration one point. It is their continued repetition of the statement that such denounce "all church organization." They do not qualify this expression by the word, *human*, saying they denounce all human organizations, nor do they state they denounce all so-called church organizations, but that which is spiritual. To do this would be, to do justice thus far to those of whom they affirm, and to do the part of moral honesty before those they professedly seek to enlighten.

They do know there is a spiritual organization of the church of Christ; whether they know its power or not. They do know that it is far above, and ought to know that it is far removed, from all that is humanly organized. They do know, that so-called come-outers have

tenaciously, held to and plead for the spiritual organization of the church, that they have held up and exalted the same as none others have done. They have maintained that it was, so full, so broad, so complete, so Divine, so thoroughly God's building, God's temple that it precluded the human; that it fore-installed the remotest thought of a human organization of Christ's church. Is this "no churchism?" In the face of all this we have stated: in spite of almost daily corrections, they persist in their outcry, of "no churchism;" this until they have filled the length and breadth of the land with their satanic falsehood.

Why is this? It is as easy to tell the truth as an untruth, and if a person has a good conscience it is vastly easier, and if sanctified by the truth cannot do otherwise.

Shall I call it a strange moral infatuation on their part? It reveals vastly more.

It reveals an astounding amount of moral blindness, and perverseness of heart, touching the spiritual organism of the church. This is not to be seen from the high encomiums they may pay to the same. What they do, practically, is the only key to what they are and their relation to the divine organism of the church.

The Jews in the time of Christ professedly paid the highest tribute of regard to the Mosaic economy but this was not a test of what they were or their heart relation to the Jewish church: when Christ came the fullness of all its types and shadows they crucified him as a malefactor.

So, to-day, when the spiritually organized body of Christ, of which he is the head would stand forth complete in body as he hath placed its many members, refusing to recognize all humanly organized bodies as Christ's body or church; is Christ in the person of that body as its only legitimate head, denounced as no Christ, his body as no body, his church as no church!

What is the secret of this abnormal unholy manifestation of moral character? It cannot be necessitated by an undue exaltation of the divine organism of the true church by those whom they deify. As a body they have never passed beyond the expressed thought "Ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.—As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him." Enured in that completeness; having received him as the head of all principality and power to the fullness of being: they have chosen thus to walk in him, and in so doing have found a freedom to do God's holy will unknown before, with a fellowship and spirit of co-operation as broad as the universal brotherhood under God.

The secret is an undue exaltation of human organism, which gives to it, both the spirit and power of idolatry. It is making the spiritual subordinate to the human. How can it be otherwise, when they discount, entirely so, those who stand alone in the fullness of his spiritual organism?

They as teachers know full well that, the exaltation of the spiritual to the plane of infinite completeness as revealed in God's word would be death to even the thought of humanly organizing God's church.

They do know, or ought to, that a clear conception of God's spiritually organized church, by every honest soul would place it in eternal opposition to all human attempts to organize the same, as being positive rivals of God's true church.

Their unscrupulous disregard of truth comes from a kindred state of heart to that of the Jews in the time of Christ. They rejected their Messiah because he refused to reign over their hypocrisy as interwoven with their human commandments, which made void the law of God and because of his uncompromising reproof of their deep-dyed hypocrisy. "Ye hypocrites, well did Elias prophesy of you, saying, 'In vain do ye worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.'"

To-day, God's history, repeats itself. At the very threshold of the second coming of Christ, when he would separate the bride from the worldliness, hypocrisy and moral death, that reigns under human organization, so-called churches, preparatory to the marriage supper of the Lamb, and reigning King of Glory, to the proud pharisees of human organism, reject the coming reign of Christ in the person of the bride for little ones, who by their Master did not taught; reprove their sins, and expose the moral rottenness pervading their human sect systems.

The Jews rejected Christ and the power of his kingdom, in the interests of married hypocrisy and man's wisdom.

The sad sequel is found in the hand-writing of God under the terrible destruction of Jerusalem, and age-lasting curse resting upon their posterity.

The proud pharisaical sect advocates of to-day are with their blind victims rejecting the coming Christ, in the interest of human wisdom centered in human organizations, as so-called churches. Their sequel has yet to come is clearly defined in the 10 and 11 verses of the 14th chapter of Revelation. Behold what is there written! How readest thou?

Faith-Kill, or Fanaticism.

The following from the *Blade*, a secular paper, is one among hundreds of instances which come to our knowledge in the modern drift of faith-healing fanaticism, which is spreading over our country, deluding many outside as well as inside existing sects.

"FAITH CURE" IN ST. LOUIS.

"The coroner is investigating a faith-cure hospital recently established on Popular between Fifteenth and Sixteenth streets, St. Louis, by some religious fanatics. A baby died there Tuesday, and according to the testimony so far heard the only treatment the little one received at the hospital was of the faith-cure order, the nurses uniting in prayer for its recovery. The prayers, however, seem not to have been answered for the baby died, and the coroner hearing of the affair, commenced an investigation. The mother is a poor woman, living at No. 1412 North Twelfth street, and was a patient at the 'Clay Fe-

male Hospital when the baby was born some four months ago. She took the child to the Faith Cure Institute two weeks ago at the suggestion of a neighbor who had heard that some wonderful cures had been effected there. Instead of improving the child grew worse and finally died. *Toledo Blade*.

The idea of a faith-cure hospital is of itself fanatical. Bible faith don't want any hospitals, it trusts God in one place as well as another. It has no *to here is Christ, or to there*.

Again, genuine Bible faith-cure, cures, it don't kill by neglect. There is no requirement of the gospel to neglect the sick, to do for them. All we know of as a means of relief. Just the contrary is the dictate of love and humanity. That is fanaticism which pretends to faith and don't show true love for the sick by ministering to their needs to the best of our knowledge.

Where persons are killed by neglect through pretense to faith, the law ought to punish them as much as for any murder. I don't wonder ungodly neighbors are indignant at such fanaticism. It destroys confidence in religion as all fanaticism does. There is nothing in true faith which does not commend itself to every conscience. The ungodly can't honestly speak against true faith. But they can and ought to condemn that pretense to faith which endangers, afflicts, or kills people.

If any one has true faith to cure, it always cures, it don't kill. If it cures, no body can find any fault, but are compelled to glorify such faith. If those who talk so much about healing faith, only *HEAL*, then it is all right. Let the miracles be done, and no body can find any fault. But this blow and parade about miracles; when most of the cures are done by mesmerism or some other power besides God, and the rest are doubtful or miserable failures, or mere pretenses, it proves fanaticism or the work of Satan.

The ungodly can go without medicine and doctors, as I have known some such to do with a pretense to faith. But this is no Bible proof one way or the other. If the sick are healed or miracles done then praise God for it. But miracles are not necessarily from God, for Satan has this power too, Rev. 13: 14 and 19: 20. Hence we have to be on our guard. All are to be tested by the fruits of holiness and truth which they exhibit. God hears prayer for the sick and afflicted of every kind just as ever in the past, but this does not excuse any from the work of love in ministering to the afflicted to the extent of our power.

One suspicious circumstance about this faith healing sect is that their cures are of nervous diseases where the power of magnetism might be the agent. I never have known among these, of eyes that were gone to be restored; nor limbs that were cut off, to be replaced; nor the dead to be raised that were really dead. If it was genuine faith-cure one would be done as easily as the other. A miracle is one thing, the restoration of diseased nerves and muscles by magnetism is another.

HELL.

The Bible teaching of a literal hell, or place of endless torment is practically becoming a matter of doubt or disbelief by the masses of the so-called christian world. Robert Ingersoll boasts that in less than five years there will be no minister of standing who will preach such a doctrine.

It is not strange that infidels make this boast since so-called christians show by their lives and teachings that they do not believe the Bible on this subject.

Since all the fearful words of Jesus Christ descriptive of future punishment are explained away by professed interpreters of Scripture, the restraints of wholesome fear are removed, and the flood-gates of crime are hoisted, and our land is deluged with wickedness as never before.

The word HADES and GEHENNA literally the grave, or place of the dead, or of burning-near Jerusalem are reduced to only a temporal sense; as if they were no longer mere symbols of the awful beyond. Such is the desperate intent of guilt to get rid of fear, not by repentance, but by closing human eyes to the fearful looking-for of Judgment and fiery indignation. Oh, what fools are men to make Jesus mean nothing when he pictured the doom of covetousness, and described the rich man in hell and Lazarus in heaven, and the five brethren yet on earth!

The covetous Pharisees had derided him because he had rebuked their love of riches. He just gives them a look over into the awful future where the first shall be last, and the last shall be first.

It is only by a desperate and dishonest perversion of words that the plain story of the rich man, and Lazarus is made to mean nothing but an earthly disappointment of Jews, jealous of Gentiles. Oh, what trifling Jesus is speaking of what takes place after death! It is a warning to the covetous and rich of this world. All earthly torment is but a shadow of that which is to come. Jesus never magnified earthly things. It was only that which is unseen and eternal to which all his teachings relate.

Place beside the case of the rich man in torment, the words of Jesus: "If thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out. It is better to enter into life with one eye than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched." This is repeated of the hand and foot. Oh, what perversion of Christ's words to make them mean any calamity of earth, since he tells us not to fear those who kill the body and have no more that they can do!

Then Matt. 25: 46. "These shall go away into everlasting punishment and righteous into life eternal." The translation would be just as correct if it had read ETERNAL TORMENT. The words are precisely these. Eternal torment is the strict rendering of the words of Jesus. I change those with being false who make them mean anything else. Hell is therefore just as eternal as heaven.

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the liv-

ing God." These words are made false by all who teach that God will ever end the misery of those who will not repent.

There is only one way to escape an eternal hell, and to settle this question beyond all doubt, and that is to repent of sin and get saved from its guilt and curse.

The very effort of men to prove there is no hell only proves their guilt and desert of hell. Why do they wish to defend iniquity except they intend to practice it?

No innocent person, nor any who intend to cease from sin, have any cause to prove there is no hell. The very discussion of the question, as a matter of doubt betrays an intention to live in sin, or which is the same thing, to uphold others who live in sin. In nocence always pleads for virtue instead of immunity from punishment. It is only the guilty who complain of the hardness of justice. The virtuous and innocent have no occasion. They know there is no hell for those who don't deserve it: Perfect love casts out fear. On the contrary innocence pleads against iniquity, and always says there ought to be a hell for it, and grieves only that the wicked go unpunished. Justice and purity are inseparable. Love of law, and its penalty is the essence of purity. Its abhorrence for sin demands vengeance. Lenity for sin is laxness of virtue. God could not show mercy without an infinite sacrifice.

In Hebrews 12; the apostle reasons from all the infinite superiority of Calvary over Sinai, and grace over law that the wrath for rejecting the gospel of Christ will be just as much greater than the bodily suffering inflicted under the law of Moses.

It is impossible to believe the Bible and not to believe its full and unmistakable warnings of an eternal hell.

O, that God would wake the slumbering conscience of the masses who are rushing down to eternal burnings with all the light of this land of Bibles.

The awful judgments of God in this life where justice is not administered, prove that when justice is dispensed that the suffering of human experience here will be only as drops to the ocean of fury to be poured on the guilty soul that will not repent.

God will not have to change, who visits our race with a hell begun on earth, to continue the same without hope or relief on the other side of death. Oh, then let sinners be warned in time!

Unity of Divisions.

If those at Corinth who were divided about Paul, Cephas and Apollos, had formed a union of their three divisions, would that have met Paul's requirement, "That there be no divisions among you?"

Was it the unity of his disciples for which Jesus prayed in John 17th, or the unity of sects and divisions among them? If there is any virtue in union, how is it about a union of divisions?

Does not such a union become more sectarian than any division by its very support and adoption of all divisions?

A sect separation may be the result of ignorance, while its members oppose the principle of divisions. But when men unite to uphold and practice division, then their union is more sectarian than any and all sects.

The most stupendous lie and moral farce of modern christianity are the alliances, unions, and associations of christian sects which make a virtue of their 'union'!

No hypocrisy can surpass the sham of denominational unions, which uphold the division of Christ's followers into sects. A combination of selfish divisions to perpetuate themselves, is the worst possible defiance of Christ's law of unity.

This suffer-word by which sectarian guilt hides its character by the multiplicity of names in Christ's family implies the addition of lecherous love to the guilt of divisions.

UNDENOMINATIONAL.

A still more remarkable moral phenomenon appears in the modern holiness movement which consists in the use of the word *undenominational* to mean all denominations. Literally *undenominational* means *not denominational*, on no sect, but that break of conscience which is peculiar to the second blessing of sects, applies the word to the opposite idea, and makes it mean all denominations instead of none, and is more bitter against *no sect* ideas than is any existing sect.

This holiness movement which originated with Inskip and is now spread by many advocates and holiness bands and associations East and West, makes a special virtue of being undenominational and moving in the direction of church unity for which Jesus prayed, by just the opposite method of doing away with divisions. It makes *no sect* the only sect sin, and to uphold one sect, or denomination only, to be more sectarian than to embrace all sects. The more divisions or denominations, is to be the more undenominational or unsectarian!

In the first place, if denominations are, virtuous, I don't understand why their sanctification don't say *denominational* instead of *undenominational*. Why do they make a higher grade of virtue of undenominationalism if sects are good things?

Again, by what rule of moral arithmetic does multiplying a sin diminish its guilt?

The world reason that if a man kills but one man he is a vile murderer and ought to be hung; but if like Alexander or Napoleon he kills thousands of men he is a hero and worthy of immortal honors!

Precisely so if a man contends for one sect, or is opposed to all divisions, he is a vile sectarian; but if we embrace and uphold six hundred divisions and murders of Christ's body we are models of unsectarian virtue and charity! To be a denominationalist, or sectarian is to be a *no sect*ist, or to adhere to one sect only; but undenominationalism and unsectarianism is to go into the

